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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

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The Hon Minister of Police Gen Bheki Cele 756- 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Wachthuis Building 231 Pretorius Street PRETORIA 0002

Dear Minister,

## Re: URGENT CALLS FOR SAPS SPECIAL TASK TEAM TO FIGHT STOCK THEFT

## CRIME SYNDICATE IN KAGISANO MOLOPO, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

I have exhausted all channels of communication in the Northwest requesting investigation into the deeply embedded stock theft crime syndicate operations throughout the Kagisano Molopo District Municipality that have allegedly compromised the local police.

The syndicate has been terrorising the community for more than 12 years unabated, stealing, and poisoning livestock, illegally accessing farms, intimidating and threatening the lives of any individual who dare to speak out.

Over this 12-year period, numerous cases have been opened with the SAPS with video footage repeatedly, but the Kagisano Molopo SAPS has dragged their feet at every step of the way. I have submitted a list of cases to the Northwest Provincial stock theft unit of which only 1 case was investigated.

The alleged crime syndicate boss is a known individual and have been recorded on video footage repeatedly, et remains free to continue his reign of terror on the community, phoning them and sending voice messages.

Yesterday another incident of cattle poisoning took place on a farm in the Bray area (CAS 6/11/2023) where the former case of stock theft on the same farm opened at the same station (CAS 4/11/2023) received no attention from SAPS to date. When the victim attempted to open a case at the Bray Police Station, graded with 4 stars and advertised on internet to be open 24 hours per day, the station was closed. The 24 hr closed Police Sation indicates that the SAPS in Bray has no intention to serve and protect the community, prevent crime and investigate criminal cases when it is opened.

Given the long overdue investigation to ensure law and order is restored I request your assistance mobilizing a special task team, deployed from outside Northwest, to investigate whether the SAPS

units in Kagisano Molopo have been compromised to closely scrutinise the case backlog implicating this crime syndicate. The SAPS should also deploy additional units to improve presence and visibility around targeted farms and also conduct a threat-assessment on individuals that have received death threats to enable additional protection again deployed from outside the province.

It is unacceptable that farmers, farmworkers and rural communities are terrorised by organised crime syndicates must battle crime on their own without the support of police in what is right, fair and justified while enduring a harsh climate, loadshedding, drought, destructive veld fires, floods and a poor economic outlook to produce food for South Africa.

Respectfully

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